

Sean's son stars ...as the 007 creator!

IT'S not difficult to imagine Jason Connery playing the role his father Sean made famous, James Bond.

The 27-year-old has that certain Bond style — rugged good looks, deadly dimples and an unassuming charm — but Jason laughs at the thought of portraying Agent 007.

Instead, he'll have the title role in the mini-series *The Secret Life Of Ian Fleming*.

"Playing Ian Fleming, who created Bond, is about as close as I'm going to get," he says in his clipped British accent.

Although the Fleming tale seems Bond-like on the surface — aristocratic, recruited into Britain's secret service, as famous for his womanising as for his books — it is the story of a real man struggling with real problems.

"Fleming was the second son of a wealthy family, and at that time in society the second son was not regarded as the heir," Jason says. "The outer image of the character is that he's intelligent and athletic and has everything. But inside he's desperate to prove himself in his own right."

That's a desire with which Jason can easily identify.

"People might say I got cast in the part simply because I'm Sean Connery's son, but at the end of the day it's your performance that counts," he says.

"The comparisons get boring, really. I love my father, but it doesn't mean I want to do things the same way he did them."

Director Ferdinand Fairfax considered some big names for the Fleming role but chose Jason because his audition was far superior.

Jason was raised in south-west England and when his parents split in 1973 he was in Scotland at Gordonstoun boarding school, alma mater of Prince Charles.

He spent holidays visiting his



● Like father, like son . . . Sean Connery played James Bond and now his son Jason is portraying the man who created 007, Ian Fleming.

THE TIES THAT BOND!

mother, actress Diane Cilento, who had moved back home to Australia, or with his father.

In his late teens, Jason decided to follow them into acting.

He says that while neither of his parents tried to influence his decision, his father took an active interest in his career.

"He sees my work and is a good critic," Jason says. "He always says what he feels. He's honest."

Jason found the Fleming role a challenge, adding his father encouraged him to take the part, because it was a good script, but did not help prepare for the role.

"There were certain things I knew about Fleming from my dad

playing Bond," Jason says, "but he had only met Fleming when he was an older man, and this film focuses on Fleming as a young man."

Jason is Sean's only child and the two are "very close".

"I try to get down to Spain to see him and my stepmother (Micheline Roquebrune) as often as possible," he says.

Jason's life, he says, is decidedly unsecret-agentlike.

"The minute I walk away from the set and get in the car, I'm no longer Ian Fleming," he says.

"I don't see myself as that sort of a person. One thing I liked about the film is that I don't carry a gun and I never kill anyone."

"I do punch a woman," he adds, pausing before saying: "But she's a Russian agent!"

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Roger wins back his son... and gains a co-star!

GEOFFREY MOORE is clowning around on-set with his girlfriend Tatjana, until Dad starts to look irritated.

Enough is enough. "Geoffrey," Roger yells. "Behave yourself!"

Moore jnr mischievously picks up a handful of snow and takes aim. Roger ducks and the pair giggle.

It has been a long time since Geoffrey and Roger Moore have laughed like that. A family row five years ago split them.

Geoffrey wanted to make his name in music but Roger and his Italian wife Luisa disapproved.

Now Roger, 62, has persuaded his son to try his hand at acting.

Geoffrey has a key role in the film *Fire, Ice And Dynamite*, written for Roger and packed with daredevil sporting stunts.

Roger is Sir George Blake. Geoffrey plays his son Dudley.

Geoffrey, 24, might have a lot to learn but deserves a break.

In 1985 he met an agent in the music business and later was signed to a record deal with EMI.

Moore jnr was ecstatic, Moore snr was disappointed, Mrs Moore was furious.

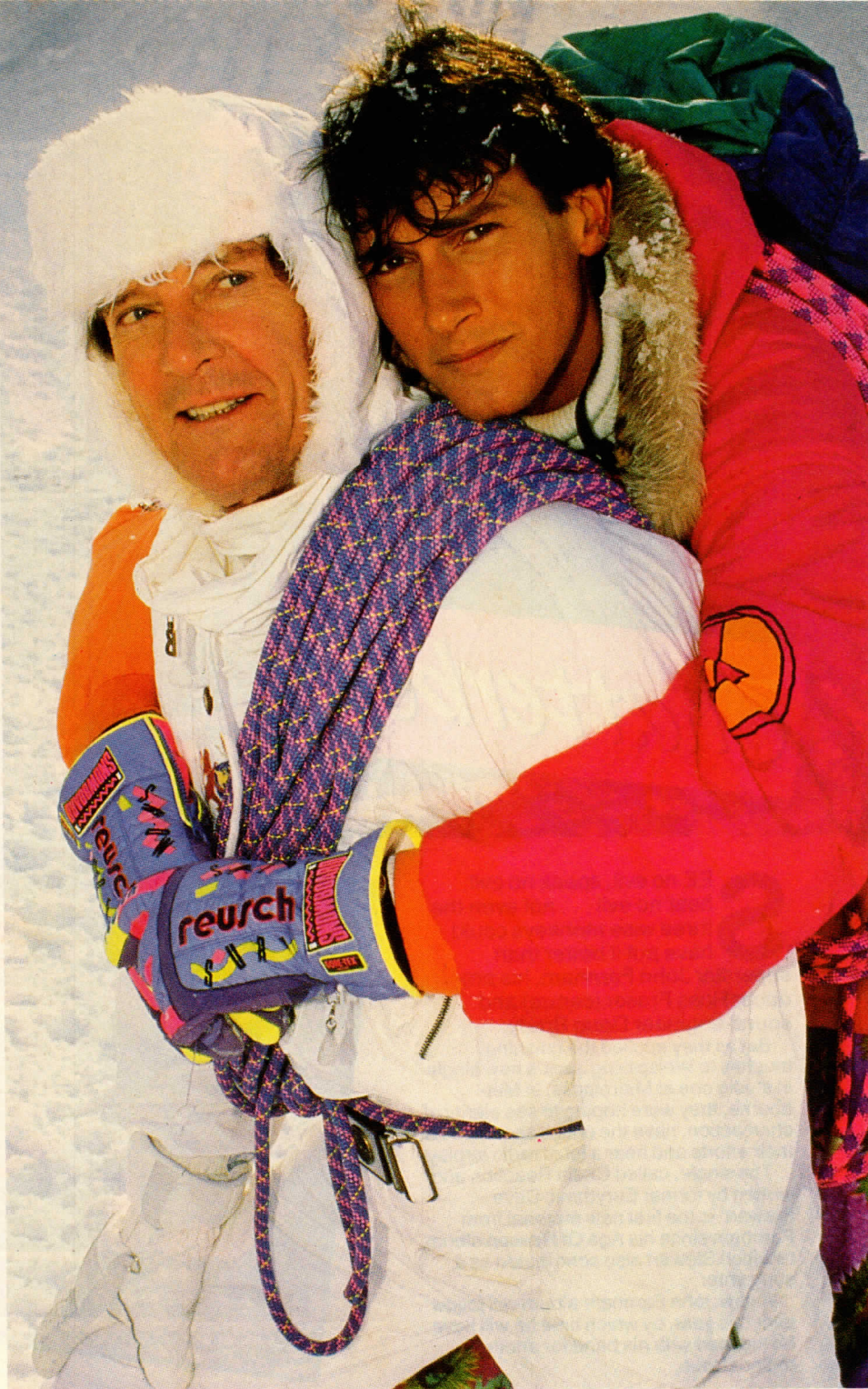
"I had to leave home," says Geoffrey. In fact, he was thrown out of the family's Gstaad home.

I wanted him to go into the acting profession. Instead, he was going into a nasty business which is full of crooks 9

"I wanted him to go into the acting profession," Roger says. "Instead, he was going into a nasty business which is corrupt and full of crooks. The record people told him he would be a star. Geoffrey was naive and believed every word."

The rift was long and painful, but on the St Moritz set, the father-son bond is being renewed.

"Dad and I are closer now than ever before and I have fallen in love with the most beautiful woman in the world," Geoffrey says.



● Roger Moore and Geoffrey on the set of their movie... friends again after a bitter five-year split.

The object of his adoring attention is model Tatjana Patitz.

Roger believes in disciplining his children, but always found it hard.

"Because I worked so hard, I never got as much time with my children as I would have liked," he says. "I feel I made up for not being with them by giving them material gifts. I suppose I spoilt them."

Geoffrey was certainly spoilt, with holidays by private jet and

homes in L.A., Spain, and London at his disposal — until the 1985 bust-up.

Now he appreciates his father's concern and is happy to throw himself into his new career.

Fire, Ice And Dynamite could be Roger's last film appearance. He is now interested in directing.

"If Geoffrey, Deborah (his eldest child) and Christian (his younger son) are together for a project, then I'd love to be behind the camera, kicking their butts!" Roger says.

*From Cameron Docherty
in St Moritz*